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EARLY HISTORY OF BLOOMFIELD.

The Earliest Puritan Settlers at Watesson and on Second River.

A Sabbath-Morning Picture of the Old Church, 1800-5-10.
(Extracts from the Historical Address, by Rev. Charles E. Knox, D. D., at the First Presbyterian Church, Bloomfield, Nov. 10th, 1896.)

The First Settlers.

Within from nine to thirteen years from the first landing in 1666, that is in 1675 and 1679, at least thirty-six persons had taken titles from the mouth of the Second River all along the stream, on Watesson plain, on the branches of Second River, on the foot of the mountain and to the top of the mountains near Eagle Rock and northward. There are the names of Ward and Morris and Ball and Harrison and Crane and Pierson and Davis and Dodd and Richards and Baldwin and Blockley and Johnson and Kitchell and Freeman and Lyman and Catlin. The record of these titles in 1675 and 1679 had also been retarded by contentions with proprietors at Elizabethtown, so that we may say that the exploration and settlement of this northern half of the colonial tract began with the very beginning at the landing place. Ten years or more later they had crossed this plain, between the Second and Third Rivers, as in 1695 to 1698 thirty-five land owners—half of them the same persons—had patents and surveys up the course and down the course of Third River to Stone House plain, and to the Acquackanonk line in both the northwest and the northeast corners of the original town tract. There are Thomas Davis and Benjamin Baldwin and Matthew Canfield. There is John Morris beginning the Morris Neighborhood. There are Wards and a Wakeman between Stone House Plain and the east branch of Toney's brook. There are a Wheeler and a Freeman north of Stone House brook, and Robt. Young and others to the Acquackanonk line at the mountain; and probably down the Third River, Theophilus Pierson, John Treat, Hans Albert and two Hollanders, I suppose Bastion Nagason and John Brodbeckie all the way down to the mouth of the Third River at the Passaic.

Thomas Davis in 1695 has liberty to set up a saw mill; and the wood-chopper's cabin and the split-log house began to give way to houses of sawn lumber; and highways crossed the three fords of Second River to these remote clearings.

The Stone Houses.

Stone houses began to appear as the new century went on—first probably of field stone and then of stone from the quarry. If chiseled dates can be relied on, the first of which we can be certain are the Van Gieson house towards Stone House plain in 1711, the Anthony Cliff house below Eagle Rock (Williamsville) in 1712, the Abraham Van Gieson house on the east branch of Third River near Canoe swamp, and the Daniel Dodd (Amos Dodd) house now occupied by Mrs. Charles Gilbert, in 1719, and the Franklin Hill school house in 1758. The Moses Farrand house below Watesson Hill, the Abraham H. Cadmus (Moses Cadmus) house on Montgomery Street, part of the Joseph Davis house opposite the Baptist Church, the Thomas Cadmus mansion where Washington slept, with its slave quarters on the south and its big Dutch oven on the west, the Wakely house on Belleville Avenue and the Crane houses in Cranetown, represent no doubt a larger number built during that third or half of the century. The names Stone House plain and Stone House brook were in titles in 1695. Possibly there was a solitary house there, although the tradition is that the "stone house" was a shelving rock with a spring.

The Naming of the Town.

It was the congregation and the Presbyterian Society that took the name of Bloomfield. Although the time of the church-town, when or by whom, cannot be ascertained, yet religious ideas absorbed the stalwart leaders and dominated civil affairs. The town did not come into existence for sixteen years.

The notices therefore "set up in three of the most public places"—quite likely at the three school houses—were notices for a meeting of the congregation. And at the

meeting they proceeded to choose a name which should unify and identify the whole northern end of Newark, from the great boiling spring to the Acquackanonk line.

In making their choice they passed by Watesson, a euphonious Indian name—signifying either crooked and descriptive possibly of the elbow of Third River, or Mountain of Stone—which in surveys and patents seem at first confined to the Franklin Hill and to the plain below and had been extending itself northwards. They did not consider Cranetown which had come into local use probably before the Revolution as that of the proper settlement of one among several strong families. They thought Newtown, as the little settlement on the road to Second River (past Mr. Oakes house) was called, lacking in qualities. They could not, for the Morrisons called it Morristown, for that name was pre-occupied. They rejected the young men's suggestion of Hopewell. Crab Apple Orchard, colloquial for the locality just above the school house, was too small and too poor.

And so they remained all these names to final obscurity and raised into prominence the name of a popular and public man rising himself into wide prominence in the State. We can hear the advocacy of Isaac Watts, as he set forth the civil and military and patriotic virtues of the man he admired, and see his satisfied look when Bloomfield had "a large majority of the votes." The Trustees immediately incorporated under "the name and title of The Trustees of the Presbyterian Society of Bloomfield." The next day they began the subscription for the church edifice.

A Sunday Congregation Under Pastor Jackson.

The stairways to the gallery were inside the audience room, the steps having a square turn and passing through the gallery door at the south end. The woodwork was unpainted. The ceiling was a square slope from each side up to a flat parallelogram. The pews were the old high boxes, facing on one side away from the pulpit, the pulpit itself a gable-shaped box, mounted on a single pedestal, with a crimson curtain behind it and a daring sounding-board overhead. There is no steeple and no bell to summon the people. But the people knew church-time even without a watch or a clock. The full wagon loads drive up. This family and that find their way to their accustomed places. A middle-aged man, square and heavy, came in hand, with broad-brimmed, straight-crowned Puritan hat comes walking with conscious dignity up the parading ground. He enters the door, proceeds with dignified leisure down the middle aisle, takes his hat and cane on the table and takes his seat in the family pew by younger illuminated window. That is Joseph Davis. Isaac Crane, tall, spare and stooping, with his strong and sober face, has left his open wagon to speak a moment outside the door with General John Dodd, smaller in physique than himself, both of whom find their way to square pews at the right of the pulpit. Captain John Baldwin, younger large man, in straw hat and shirt sleeves, just making his way to the gallery—always at church—will be ready after meeting, skillful controversialist as he is, to defend the orthodox faith against Hopkinsonism. Deacon Isaac Dodd has come over from his house opposite with its well of water, on Sunday noons especially like the well at Bethlehem. Deacons Joseph and Oliver Crane and Major Nathaniel Crane have come in from Cranetown and Oliver Crane and his neighbors from Caldwell. The singers have found their way up the inside stairway. Possibly the player on instruments is tuning his viol, if they have attained such a luxury. The matrons are placing their foot-stoves in position. And now, as the Morrisons pass his door, Pastor Jackson comes from the Widow Lloyd's house. They enter together the church. He moves down the aisle, ascends the high winding pulpit stair and takes his seat—and the congregation is ready for their simple and impressive service.

At Melbourne, Victoria, on Oct. 9, the assembly, after an all night sitting, passed the second reading of the bill establishing woman suffrage, and "one man, one vote."

Miss Alice Snyder has been appointed assistant to Dr. Mosher, the new dean of the women's department of the University of Michigan.

Clothespins boiled a few minutes once or twice a month and quickly dried become more durable.

TOWNSHIP COMMITTEE.

The regular meeting of the Township Committee was held on Monday night. Chairman Stout called the meeting to order at 8:30 o'clock.

Town Counsel A. S. Badgley of Montclair, and Assemblyman elect George B. Harrison, of Caldwell, were present previous to the meeting and exchanged greetings with the members.

The following bills were approved and ordered paid:

Victor Weden, janitor of Active Hose House, on Election Day, \$6.

James Berry's Sons, burial of dogs and cats, \$3.75.

Ward and Ticknor, printing, water and sewer costs, \$100.05.

D. H. Baldwin, chemist, \$45.

Werner and Cogan, repairs of Fire-houses, \$20.40.

J. H. Bonnell & Co., fire department supplies, \$18.

E. S. Greeley & Co., fire department supplies, \$2.40.

Osborne and Mersellus, broken stone, \$20.98.

M. J. Callahan, sidewalk work, \$998.67.

J. du Mellor, furnishing meals to Police Station, \$9.70.

John Strong, trimming-trees, \$8.25.

A. H. Olmsted, sidewalk work, \$40.50.

W. B. Corby, coal, poor account, \$69.50.

Martin Hummel & Son, coal, poor account, \$29.60.

C. L. Voorhees, incidental expenses poor account, \$25.

J. P. Scheriff, medicines, poor account, \$4.15.

Mr. Gilbert again called attention to the condition of the crosswalks at the junction of Monroe Place and Spruce street. Last week during the heavy rain storm the scholars of the Liberty Street Primary school were obliged to wade through the water at this point. He urged that something should be done to carry off the water.

Mr. Lawrence suggested that the gutter be opened to Liberty street. This question was referred to the Road Committee with power.

Mr. Fisher reported that the special gutters had been laid.

Mr. Powers stated that he had located the gas lamp posts, which the Montclair Gas and Water Company had decided to purchase. A majority of them were taken from Harrison street, Berkeley and Bloomfield Avenues.

A petition had been received from the residents of Mill street, for another incandescent lamp. Mr. Powers suggested that several new lights be added to the system.

Mr. Lawrence stated that another dark spot existed on Belleville Avenue near Williamson Avenue. The whole matter was referred to the next meeting of the Committee.

A communication was received from City Engineer Crane of Orange relative to the construction of a retaining wall for the Union outlet sewer at the Passaic river, and for which Orange, Montclair and Bloomfield were jointly responsible.

Mr. Lawrence stated that he had endeavored to meet the Orange officials along the line of the sewer, last week, but could not find them. This matter was referred to the Chairman of the Sewer Committee, Mr. Fisher, with power.

Mr. Foster, of the Fire Committee, presented the names of the officers of Phoenix Hose Company, No. 1, and they were approved by the Committee as were the officers of Excelsior Hose Company, No. 8. The resignation of Emil E. Raensch as an active member of Excelsior Hose, No. 3, was accepted.

The application of Charles J. Hanley for membership of Excelsior Hose No. 3, was accepted.

The application for exemption certificates from John R. Marshall of Essex Hook and Ladder Company, and Joseph Weden from Active Hose Company, No. 2, were approved.

The annual inspection and parade of the Fire Department will take place next Thursday, Thanksgiving Day, morning at 10 o'clock, and \$75 was appropriated for music. The department will be reviewed by the Committee on the Park.

Jeweler M. W. Boyle received the contract to regulate the electric clock in the Truck House for one year, for the sum of \$5. Chief Oakes exhibited a smoke protector which costs \$4.50. Mr. Foster recommended the purchase of one of them. The motion was adopted.

The advisability of passing an ordinance compelling the use of broad tires for wagons was brought up for

discussion by Mr. Haskell. Counsel stated that this law referred only to Townships.

Messrs. Fisher and Haskell were appointed a Committee to confer with committees from other towns in the County, at a meeting to be held in East Orange next week.

Clark Johnson read a petition from the First Ward Board of Registry and election, stating that 665 votes had been cast at the last election and that the Ward be divided into two election districts. The matter was referred to the members from the First Ward, Messrs. Stout, Gilbert and Lawrence. At 9:30 P. M. the Committee adjourned.

Mrs. Chant and Lady Somerset.

Mrs. Christian Chant of London was a delegate from the World's W. C. T. U. to the national council of women lately held at Berlin. In her address she expressed her regret at being unable to attend. Mrs. Chant said: "I have hitherto been so busy trying to live the four lives of mother, minister, housekeeper and writer in one that I have not had time to venture a fifth as a linguist. I like to learn German only a month ago, and though it takes but an hour to learn to love it, it takes a lifetime to learn to speak it." Mrs. Chant presented greetings from the first president of the international council of women, Mrs. Fawcett, and paid a high tribute to the American women who organized the first international congress of women at Washington in 1888, and to Frances E. Willard.

Of Lady Henry Somerset Mrs. Chant said: "The English aristocracy has a nobility of our country, she has concentrated her rank, wealth and social influence to the great work of uplifting the ethical standard of her day and country. One of our finest speakers, in the history of the world, she has done what the English aristocracy ought to have done centuries ago, and of her it shall be said in days to come, 'The blessing of him that was ready to perish came upon her.'"—Boston Woman's Journal.

A Craze For Braided Gowns.

All manner of odd conceits are brought into play with the new craze for braided gowns. It requires a master hand to turn out a successful braided gown. Every bit of it must look as perfect as a die, yet it must be all hand work, or it is not up to date. Black braid is put upon gowns of all colors, from pale grays and tans to black, and with equally good effect. Shades of brown braid are also employed nicely upon certain shades of blue, tan and smoke gray. A fetching gown in the latter dainty color is made up of smooth English melton, lined throughout with rustling golden brown taffeta and richly braided with the same shade of silk braid. The skirt is cut to measure five yards at the foot and is trimmed with a curved border of brown braid set on in a fantastic way. The blouse bodice is drawn into a belt of brown velvet. The entire body is braided over in rows, ending in figures to match the skirt, the braiding ending over the hips a short distance and over the tops of the legs of mutton sleeves. Double cuffs of the velvet and an odd double collar finish the bodice. Military effects are much used in braiding. Very little is put upon the skirt, but the bodice is made up of smooth English melton, lined throughout with rustling golden brown taffeta and richly braided with the same shade of silk braid. The skirt is cut to measure five yards at the foot and is trimmed with a curved border of brown braid set on in a fantastic way. The blouse bodice is drawn into a belt of brown velvet. The entire body is braided over in rows, ending in figures to match the skirt, the braiding ending over the hips a short distance and over the tops of the legs of mutton sleeves. Double cuffs of the velvet and an odd double collar finish the bodice. Military effects are much used in braiding. 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